

HB 1093 -- HONEY

SPONSOR: Houghton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, sellers of jams, jellies, and honey whose annual sales are \$30,000 or less per location are exempt from the requirement to maintain separate facilities for the manufacture of such items. This bill removes jams and jellies from this requirement and increases the annual sales level required to maintain separate facilities for the bottling of honey to \$50,000.

Currently, sellers of honey are exempt from all remaining health standards and regulations for the manufacture of honey if they meet certain requirements. This bill exempts sellers of honey from health standards and regulations for the bottling of honey if they meet certain requirements, including that the honey be bottled in the location of the person harvesting the honey. The bill removes the requirements to label the honey and display a placard in a prominent location during the sale of honey that states this product has not been inspected by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would reduce undue burdens on people who bottle honey in their homes. Honey does not need to be altered between the hive and being bottled and therefore, does not need a commercial kitchen to be processed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Houghton; Eugene Makovec, Missouri State Beekeepers Association and Three Rivers Beekeepers; Michael E. McMillen, Missouri State Beekeepers Association; Charlotte Wiggins, Missouri State Beekeepers Association; Bruce Snavelly, Missouri State Beekeeping Association; and Cathy Misko, Missouri State Beekeepers and Midwestern Beekeepers.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that people who purchase honey in the store have the right to know that the honey was not inspected.

Testifying against the bill was Kala Wekenborg-Tomka, Missouri Environment Health Association and Missouri Association Of Public Health Agencies.